



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE  
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CHICAGO, IL 60604

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# NEWS RELEASE

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**September 20, 2000**

## **Chicago District INS Celebrates Citizenship Day by Welcoming 162 New Americans**

**(Chicago)** — In recognition of Citizenship Day, 162 new Americans were sworn in at a naturalization ceremony here today. The ceremony was one of more than 40 naturalization ceremonies being held across the country in conjunction with Citizenship Day -- the day 213 years ago when the U.S. Constitution was signed and the first immigrants to the New World became American citizens.

More than 23,000 new citizens are being sworn in nationwide at naturalization ceremonies marking Citizenship Day. Their citizenship applications are among the more than one million the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) expects to complete by the end of Fiscal Year 2000. From 1993 to 1999, 6.4 immigrants applied for citizenship -- more than the total in the last previous 37 years combined -- and 4.2 million were granted citizenship.

"Our country's greatness is deeply rooted in our rich immigration tradition," said INS Commissioner Doris Meissner. "New citizens bring unique cultural, scientific, artistic and economic talents that result in immeasurable contributions to our nation."

In today's Chicago ceremony, 162 new citizens were sworn in at the Harold Washington Library's Winter Garden Room by the Honorable Judge Marvin Aspen. Candidates for this ceremony included persons from 49 different countries around the world, with a total of 17% from Poland, 14% from Mexico, 11% from India and 58% from many other countries.

This naturalization effort was sponsored locally by the Chicago Bar Association and the Chicago Public Library. So far this fiscal year, October 1 to the present, the Chicago District has naturalized more than 36,000 new citizens.

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## **The Oath of Allegiance for New Citizens**

*I hereby declare, on oath,  
that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any  
foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been  
a subject or citizen;*

*that I will support and defend the Constitution and the laws of the United States of  
America against all enemies, foreign and domestic;  
that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same;  
that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law;  
that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States  
when required by the law;  
that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required  
by the law; and  
that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion;  
so help me God.*